

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187290

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECTO 8134 (USDEL SECRETARY IN BELGRADE)

ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRUSSELS DTD 04 AUG

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 08134

EXDIS

EO11652 GDS

TAGS: BE CG EAID EFIN

SUBJ: BELGIAN REQUEST FOR INTERNATINAL AID TO ZAIRE

1. DURING AUGUST 1 BILATERAL MEETING WITH BELGAIN PRIME
MINISTER TNDEMANS, BELGIANS SAID THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD
WE WERE OFFERING ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE. THEY SAID THAT THEY
HAD A MODEST PROGRAM OF THEIR OWN, MAINLY COMPOSEDOF
DEBT RELIEF AT THE MOMENT, BUT THAT THEY WERE HANDICAPPED
IN THEIR RELATIONS BY THE FACT THAT BELGIANS IN ZAIRE
WERE A KIND OF HOSTAGE. THE BELGIANS FEEL THAT SOME KIND
OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE HAS TO BE APPLIED
SINCE ZAIRE IS GOING BROKE. THEY CANNOT APPLY PRESSURE
DIRECTLY THEMSELVES AND THEREFORE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT
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THE USIN GIVING ITS ASSISTANCE COULD PUT TOGETHER AN

INTERNATIONAL PACKAGE, INCLUDING THE IMF, AS A WAY OF
INFLUENCING ZAIRE ECONOMIC POLICIES.

2. THE SECRETARY INDICATED HE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS
TO SUCH AN APPROACH IN THE FUTURE. HE PROMISED TO
LOOK INTO THE MATTER WHEN HE RETURNED TO WASHINGTON.
HE CONFIRMED THAT WE HAD A TOTAL AID PACKAGE OF
\$50 MILLION OF WHICH \$20 MILLION WAS A DEVELOPMENT
LOAN REQUIRING SOME CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.

3. MEMORANDUM SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR THE SECRETARY
COMMENTING ON THE BELGIAN REMARKS AND MAKING
RECOMMENDATIONS.

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